

NEWS

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

**Coronado National Forest
Safford Ranger District
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www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bill Lewis or Chris Peterson

SAFFORD, AZ – May 27, 2004

The Safford Ranger District will be conducting a Prescribed Burn in the next few weeks in the Gillespe Wash area along Arizona State Highway 266, in and along the Jurnigan Ranch area, and Forest Service Road 661. The 6500 acre Gillespe III burn will be conducted primarily in the evening and night time hours burning off of State Road 266, Forest Road 661, Gillespe Wash and the Graham Electric Coop Power-line right-away to create a solid black line, reducing thick vegetation and fuels adjacent to the natural firebreaks and hand dug firelines. Once a blackline is established around the entire 6500 acre burn unit, a daytime operation using aerial ignition will be conducted to remove fuels in the interior portion of the burn unit. Smoke will be visible from I-10, Arizona State Road 191 and State Highway 266. Smoke signs and Forest Service units will be posted on Highways 191 and 266. The burn is being conducted to reduce hazardous fuels and invasive woody species in the burn area.

Agencies cooperating in the execution of the burn are: US Forest Service, Safford BLM, and Arizona Department of Corrections –Ft. Grant Fire Crew.

For additional information please call the Safford Ranger District: (928) 428-4150

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